TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE Transcriber's Office

March 16, 1999 LB 179

Preister would have, but that's a matter I suppose that could be taken up later. I have no objection to this partic...to this part of the question and, in fact, I want to make clear at the beginning that, as far as the substance of the matter is concerned and those things that we are trying to accomplish in all parts of the amendment I do not object to. I would like to be able, as I think everybody here would like to be able, to lend assistance in even larger amounts on all of these different portions of the bill.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Beutler, if I could please...

SENATOR BEUTLER: But...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: ...interrupt you for a moment. Members, if you could please take your conversations off the floor out of respect for your colleague. Senator Beutler, please continue.

SENATOR BEUTLER: The portion of the committee amendment that we're discussing now, let's talk about the whole amendment in financial terms. The whole amendment is estimated to cost and will have coming down the pike after it, should you advance it, a fiscal note of about \$9 million, just a little short of The part of the committee amendment that you're \$9 million. discussing right now, if you adopt it, will be \$3.5 million of exemption. If you do not adopt the remainder then of the committee amendment, you will reduce the overall cost of the bill from just short of \$9 million to about \$3.5 million. So, by adopting this portion of the amendment, which I certainly do not object to, the bill would be sized at about \$3.5 million instead of just short of \$9 million, and it is the size of this matter that is of concern to me and I think will be of concern to you when we get down to the end of our discussions this session and you have a large number of bills sitting on Final Reading, the totality of which, when added to the appropriations bills, will result, on our current course, in spending all of the money there is to spend. That is, we will not have, and this is my biggest concern, we will not have put aside even one more dollar into reserves for the hard times when they come. If you spent all of the money that's in the treasury right now, aside from what's sitting in the Reserve Fund, you could spend \$45 million, more or less, this year. That would be